

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 00066 082249Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 COME-00 ACDA-07 NSF-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 61

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0066

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: TPHY USXL XK
SUBJ: HURRICANE MODIFICATION EXPERIMENT - STORM FURY

REF: STATE 194514; STATE 213746

1. USINT OFFICER (GLASSMAN), SEPTEMBER 8, CALLED ON MARIO RODRIGUEZ NUNEZ, DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE OF METEOROLOGY, (CUBAN OFFICIAL WEATHER SERVICE), AND MENELAO MORA, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, ACADEMY OF SCIENCES TO DISCUSS PLANNED STORM FURY EXPERIMENT. (FYI: ALL USINT NON-COMMERCIAL APPOINTMENT REQUESTS MUST GO THROUGH PROTOCOL SECTION OF MINREX. DELAYS OF FIVE TO SEVEN DAYS BETWEEN REQUEST AND APPOINTMENT HAVE BEEN COMMON THUS FAR. END FYI)

2. RODRIQUEZ NUNEZ SAID THAT, IN PRINCIPLE, HE FAVORED EXPERIMENTATION TO REDUCE FORCE AND DANGERS OF TROPICAL STORMS. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD SOME CONCERNS ABOUT EXPERIMENT ENVISAGED. PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE SHOWED THAT SILVER IODIDE TENDED TO REMAIN IN ATMOSPHERE AFTER SEEDING. THIS ATMOSPHERIC CONTAMINATION COULD CONCEIVABLY REPEAT CONCEIVABLY HARM POPULATION IF STORM TURNED TOWARD LAND. ALSO, RODRIGUEZ ASSERTED, IT WAS NOT CLEAR THAT SILVER IODIDE SEEDING DID NOT CHANGE DIRECTION OF STORM SINCE EFFECT OF SEEDING WAS TO ALTER STABILITY AND STRUCTURE OF STORM SYSTEM. RODIRGUEZ DID NOT DEFINE THESE CONSIDERATIONS AS NECESSARILY OVERRIDING THE DESIRABILITY OF THE
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EXPERIMENT. THEY WERE RATHER CAUSES FOR CONCERN WHICH SHOULD PREFERABLY BE CONSIDERED AND ANALYZED CAREFULLY.

3. COMMENT: RODRIGUEZ COMMENTS WERE NOT ADAMANT. THEY SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS A RESERVATION ABOUT, BUT NOT NECESSARILY AS AN OBJECTION TO, REFTEL EXPERIMENT.
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Message Attributes

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